



Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

Slide Program Information

Frederick Law Olmsted & The Massachusetts Legacy

The firm Frederick Law Olmsted founded over a century ago was involved in over 1,200 landscape architecture projects throughout Massachusetts, ranging from expansive 500-acre public parks to intimate private gardens. One of its greatest achievements is a six-mile "emerald necklace" of ponds, parks, and parkways that winds its way through Boston. The one-hour slide lecture will sample this rich landscape legacy and explore the ideas that shaped some of the most treasured lands in Massachusetts.

Biographical Note

Alan Banks, Supervisory Park Ranger, oversees the historical interpretation of Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, Massachusetts. During the last 15 years he has researched and developed a variety of landscape walking tours, slide lectures and presentations on the Olmsteds and their work. His programs have been presented to clubs, civic groups, schools, and libraries across Massachusetts. He was a featured speaker at Wellesley College's Davis Museum as part of their *Viewing Olmsted* exhibit and was highlighted in the Boston Globe for his walking tours of the Boston Park System. Alan also has served as an Olmsted consultant on various projects including working with Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art on their *Art on the Emerald Necklace* exhibit and *Olmsted's Landscape Art*, a traveling photographic exhibit created in cooperation with the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. He also recently worked with National Geographic Magazine and was lauded for his "insightful interpretation" of Olmsted's work in Boston. Legacy Magazine published his article *Interpreting Cultural Landscapes: Turning the Inside Out*. Working with the National Register of Historic Places he produced *Boston's Arnold Arboretum: A Place for Study and Recreation* as part of their Teaching with Historic Places program. It is now available to teachers nationwide to utilize in their classrooms both in print and via the World Wide Web.